



News Advisory
March 21, 2006

Contacts:

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712
- [Frank Gehrke](#), Snow Surveys Office, (916) 952-4044 (on-site cell phone number on day of survey)

DWR Sets Fourth Snow Survey Date

SACRAMENTO--The fourth snow survey of the 2005-2006 winter season by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, 2006, near Lake Tahoe.

Monthly measurements are made through April to help forecast the amount of spring runoff into reservoirs. The fourth survey, normally conducted during the last week of March or the first week of April, is generally considered to be the most important in gauging how much water is being held in the Sierra snowpack.

Historic Phillips Station, Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, (about 90 miles east of Sacramento) is the site of the manual survey. Complete snow course measurements should be available by noon.

Media representatives are advised to bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and to park only in the permitted area along Highway 50...not along Sierra at Tahoe Road.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find real-time readings of statewide water content posted on the Internet in date order (newest at the bottom) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/lrreports/DLYSWEQ>.

Importance of Snow Surveying

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide others, such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and

utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses each month to monitor the amount of water in the State's snowpack.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Visit [Archived News Releases](#) or return to the [DWR Home](#)

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.